



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

MINUTES April 19, 2010

The Environmental Quality Affairs Committee held at the City of Newport Beach Police Department Auditorium, 870 Santa Barbara Drive, on **Monday, April 19, 2010.**

Members Present:

A	Nancy Gardner, Council Member	E	Barbara Thibault
X	Michael Henn, Council Member	X	Laura Curran
X	Arlene Greer, Chair	X	Vincent Lepore
X	Kimberly Jameson	X	Kevin Nolen
X	Kevin Kelly		
		A	Sandra Haskell
E	Michael Smith	X	Kathy Harrison
X	Ed Reno	X	Timothy Stoaks
A	Nick Roussos	X	Jay Myers
X	Joan Penfil	X	Charles McKenna
X	Bruce Asper	E	Debra Stevens
A	Merritt Van Sant	E	Michael Alti

Staff Representatives:

Guests:

X	James Campbell, Principal Planner	
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Chairperson Greer called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. Minutes of February 22, 2010

Joan Penfil moved and Bruce Asper seconded to approve the minutes of February 22, 2010, as submitted.

Motion passed unanimously

2. Banning Ranch Presentations

- a. Banning Ranch Conservancy – Stephen Ray provided an overview of the Conservancy's efforts to secure funding for the acquisition of the Banning Ranch property to preserve the site as habitat and open space as a component of the overall River Park concept. He noted the Conservancy's goal to save the land from development due to the elimination of critical habitat and open space.

- b. Newport Banning Ranch – Mike Mohler provided an overview of the Newport Banning Ranch project that consists of the preservation of 65% of the 400 acre property as open space, environmental remediation/restoration efforts, consolidated oil production, 1,375 residential units, 75,000 square feet of commercial development and a 75 room hotel. He indicated that the comments from EQAC on the Notice of Preparation will be addressed in the forthcoming EIR being prepared by the City.

3. Coastal/Bay Water Quality Committee Representative's Report

Council Member Henn reported that the Committee received a presentation from the Utilities Department on the City's water wells in Fountain Valley. The Committee also heard a presentation on the Poseidon desalination plant proposed in Huntington Beach. Council Member Henn indicated that should the Poseidon facility come on-line in the future, its water production, combined with the City's wells, should make the City 100% independent from State water resources.

4. Economic Development Committee Representative's Report

Chairperson Greer reported that EDC had discussed sales and use taxes and the importance of transient occupancy taxes and the continuing efforts to secure hotel stays in the City for future Rose Bowl and BCS national championship football games. Transient occupancy tax revenue is on the rise and restaurants who participated in the recent Restaurant Weeks experienced increased sales. The next Restaurant Week will be in January of 2011. Chairperson Greer went on to report that the Marriott Hotel in Newport Center is planning an expansion of their ballroom spaces and that the City is examining its way-finding signs to improve their effectiveness. It was reported to the EDC that the blighted property on the north side of Coast Highway east of Dover Drive has been sold and the new owners are developing plans for redeveloping the site. Lastly, Chairperson Greer reminded the Committee 2010 Newport Beach Film Festival begins this week, April 22, 2010, and the Newport to Ensenada Race starts this Friday, April 23, 2010.

5. Report from Staff on Current Projects

Jim Campbell reported that the draft EIR for the Banning Ranch project is expected to be released for public review in mid-June.

6. Public Comments

None

7. Future Agenda Items

May – Smoking Ban update.

8. Adjournment

Chairperson Greer adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.